

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 07292 090834Z

46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 055258

R 090655Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9857

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 7292

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, JO, IS, SY, US

SUBJECT: MAQARIN DAM

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 8213, (B) AMMAN 7183

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES EMBASSY TEL AVIV REPORT
(REFTEL A) CONCERNING GOI YARMOUK RIVER PROJECT,
WHICH IS FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF THIS DEVELOPMENT.

2. WE WISH TO CALL DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO SOME
POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF CONTENTS REFTEL A, WHICH
DESCRIBES MAARIV REPORT THAT GOI PROJECT IS NOW AT
"ADVANCED STAGE" FOR TRANSFERRING YARMOUK RIVER
WATER FROM NAHARAYIM RESERVOIR INTO SEA OF GALILEE.

3. IF THIS UNILATERAL PROJECT, LOCATED
PARTLY INSIDE JORDANIAN TERRITORY, WOULD ACTUALLY
SERVE TO DIVERT 30-40 MILLION CUBIC METERS ANNUALLY FROM
YARMOUK RIVER BASIN, IT (LIKE MAQARIN DAM PROJECT) HAS
AN OBVIOUSLY BEARING ON OVERALL QUESTION OF USE OF WATER
RESOURCES OF GREATER JORDAN RIVER SYSTEM.

4. OUR IMMEDIATE THOUGHT WAS THAT GOI MIGHT BE
PUBLICIZING THIS PROJECT IN ORDER TO KEEP UP CAMPAIGN
DESIGNED TO PRECIPITATE NEGOTIATIONS ON WATER RIGHTS
QUESTION RELATED TO MAQARIN DAM.

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5. HOWEVER REPORT, IF TRUE, THAT PROJECT IS ALREADY
IN "ADVANCED STATE" AND DUE TO BE COMPLETED IN MARCH
1977 INDICATES THAT ISRAELIS MIGHT EVEN BE ATTEMPTING
STAKE CLAIM TO ADDITIONAL 30-40 MILLION MCN'S
ANNUALLY BEYOND ORIGINAL ALLOCATION UNDER JOHNSTON PLAN.
(ADASIYA QUOTA TO ISRAEL FROM JORDAN IS ONLY 17-25
MCM'S.)

6. EMBASSY DOES NOT PLAN TO CALL GOJ'S ATTENTION TO
THIS ITEM (ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN BROADCAST OVER ISRAELI
RADIO) SINCE IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY UPSET THE GOJ.

7. WE BELIEVE THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT STRENGTHENS EMBASSY
RECOMMENDATION IN REF B THAT USG NOW MOVE QUICKLY
TO BEGIN CONSIDERATION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON POLITICAL LEVEL
WITH REGARD TO MAQARIN DAM AND GENERAL WATER RIGHTS
ISSUES.
SUDDARTH

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